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in the country without cultivation on the part of the people; they found that the missionaries in Abeokuta, going up the valley of the Niger, observed the same thing; and Mr. Petherick going down the White Nile, from the northward, found the people there growing and manufacturing cotton. And on the Gold Coast very large communities of people were engaged in the production of this article. In the quarter which he had visited he ventured to say that cotton was not only abundant in quantity, but excellent in quality. He found in the country immediately to the interior of Sherboro, that cotton was the great staple article of production; the people there were in the habit of producing and manufacturing it, and the cloths which they manufactured were precisely the same quality as those which we found from the accounts of missionaries up the Niger, and were highly valued by the people. The future of Africa, to which the attention of the scientific world was now directed, might be of more importance in its results and consequences than we could foresee at present. He believed himself that if the slave-trade was ever to be suppressed, if England was ever to derive any advantage from the great sacrifices which she had made in behalf of Africa, it was not so much by means of keeping naval squadrons upon the coast in order to intercept the slave ships, as it was by introducing civilization, by teaching the people how to profit by their labour and make it of value to the civilized world, so that it should be felt that inasmuch as mankind were all of one family, it was only fair to "let kind offices go round."

MR. PETHERICK, in reply to a question, said that the boomerang used by the natives to the most southern point he reached was the same as that used in Australia. When thrown forward it would return to the hand. It was made of iron, was about 15 inches in diameter, and curved.

THE PRESIDENT, in adjourning the meeting, was confident that he might, without fear, congratulate them upon the result of the discussion. It concerned a topic in which, at the present moment, our interest was deeply excited; and we had, he thought, derived very great and valuable information from the Paper which had been read, and the observations to which it had given rise. Among them he thought none had been on every account more interesting than those which had been addressed with so much eloquence and feeling by Mr. Hanson, on behalf, so to speak, of his own fellow countrymen.

*Fifth Meeting, Monday, January 23rd, 1860.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Edward Butler; F. B. Montgomerie; and Charles Otter, Esqrs., were presented upon their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*The Rev. Thomas Butler; the Rev. Thomas F. Crosse, D.C.L.; the Rev. C. S. A. Dickinson; the Hon. H. Courtenay Forbes; the Hon. A. Gordon; Lieut. W. Murray; the Rev. J. Ouwry North; Major H. A. Sarel; Capt. A. E. Wilkinson, B.A.; and John Boustead; C. W. Franks; B. Hennessey; G. H. Inskip, R.N.; William Lake; Thomas Molson, of Montreal; Chas. H. C. Plowden; Henry Rich, M.P.; John D. Trigg; and Frederick Verbeke, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ANNOUNCEMENT.—Before proceeding to the business of the evening, SIR RODERICK MURCHISON called attention to the appeal which had been made to the scientific men of all countries in favour of the Humboldt Foundation at Berlin. The object of the appeal had been misunderstood. It was supposed to be to one country in Germany only. Far from it. It was an appeal to the civilized world—an appeal to every man who had a feeling of respect for the grand researches in which that great man, Alexander de Humboldt, was so long occupied. It was impossible to overestimate in this assembly the importance of a testimonial, the object of which was to encourage and support travels in remote parts by men of all nations, and thus to promote geographical science. General Sabine had written the following letter to the President, which he (Sir R.) would read to the meeting :—

*“To the Earl de Grey and Ripon, President of the Royal Geographical Society.*

“13, Ashley-place, January 7, 1860.

“MY LORD,—I beg to enclose fifty copies of the circular of the Berlin Committee of the Humboldt Foundation for distribution (should that step be approved) amongst the members of the Royal Geographical Society. I am aware that your Lordship has already notified your intention of subscribing very handsomely. Should any of the members of the Royal Geographical Society be disposed to subscribe, I shall be very happy to save them the trouble of the transmission of their subscriptions to Berlin, communicating their names either as individuals or as Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society, as they may desire.

“I remain your Lordship’s obedient servant,

“EDWARD SABINE.”

The subject of the Humboldt testimonial was brought before the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Aberdeen, and a subscription was opened, and liberally headed by its President, the Prince Consort ; and having long had the honour of presiding over the Royal Geographical Society of London, he, Sir Roderick, having warmly co-operated, hoped that his associates would readily join in the contributions to carry out this great object.

The Papers read were—

1. *Proposed Railway Route across the Andes from Caldera to Rosario, viâ Cordova.* By W. WHEELWRIGHT, Esq., F.R.G.S.

THE author reminds us that he has been engaged, for many years, in introducing and constructing railways in the mountainous and broken country of Chile, where he has successfully adopted that system of steep gradients and sharp curves which he relies upon in his present proposal, of crossing the Andes by the San Francisco Pass.

The entire distance from the Pacific on the one side to a water communication with the Atlantic on the other, by the proposed route, is about 1000 miles, which may be divided into the following sections :—